

Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science



STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 - 2028

VISION

Leadership and innovation through research and education excellence to shape safe, effective and humane justice systems and forensic mental health services.

MISSION

To create new knowledge through rigorous, clinically informed and service-oriented research that improves our understanding of people who are at risk of offending, people who are already justice involved, and people who are the victims of crime, as well as the systems responsible for their care and management. We use this knowledge to educate and inform the creation and shaping of effective and humane clinical practices and improved service systems. Our ultimate aim is to help create stronger and safer communities and better trajectories for people with a history of crime and their victims.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

RESEARCH

Staff are encouraged and supported to innovate and pursue ideas and interests aligned with our broader mission.

- Ensure there are mechanisms in place for staff to establish funds for research through their active involvement in contract consultation and evaluation.
- Where possible, provide strategic funds to seed funding for novel projects/new directions.
- Maintain quarterly grant planning meetings and incorporate mentoring opportunities for staff making funding applications.
- Support active engagement from all staff in the CFBS seminar series to ensure a broad range of topics and presenters.

Opportunities for collaborative work within the Centre and University are provided and national and international collaboration is supported.

- Set aside time within staff meetings and annual planning days for staff to give updates regarding their current research activities and plans.
- Ensure that collaboration is a key agenda item at annual planning days.
- Encourage an active co-supervision model for CFBS students.
- Establish greater collaboration with other Swinburne centres and departments.
- Consolidate and strengthen collaboration with industry partners.
- Provide strategic funding where possible to support staff to develop national and international collaborations.

Rigorous methodologies are used in our research to improve research quality.

- Encourage research teams to collaborate with technical specialists.
- Support staff to engage in professional development training in novel methodological practices to develop local expertise and encourage sharing of relevant knowledge within the CFBS.
- Initiate an internal centre peer review process to allow for feedback prior to HREC submission.
- Integrate presentations regarding novel methodologies into the CFBS seminar series.

The CFBS produces high quality and impactful research outputs that improve practices and operation of forensic mental health and criminal justice services.

- Encourage staff to seek to publish in the highest impact journals.
- Seek to understand the impact that our work has on industry practice.
- Support staff to produce visually engaging plain language brief reports for key publications and projects for community dissemination.
- Produce a quarterly CFBS newsletter highlighting activity and outputs.
- Revise and update the CFBS website to promote our research outputs.

Income is secured to support our staff and student research.

- Maintain quarterly grant meetings to help to plan and support grant applications across the centre.
- Review of income and expenditure for contract consultation and evaluation projects to support planning around sustainable category two income.
- Grow and promote the CFBS innovation philanthropic fund.
- Explore commercial opportunities where possible for products that are established academically or through consultation and evaluation work.
- Develop bespoke professional training packages to support income generation.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Swinburne University of Technology is Australia's premier university to train in clinical and forensic psychology. Our postgraduate training programmes are empirically driven, comprehensive, contemporary, and provide opportunities through strong and committed industry partnerships for students to build knowledge and clinical skills.

- Ensure that our post graduate programs are comprehensive and contemporary by integrating broad intellectual contribution from field experts and centre staff.
- Consolidate and strengthen industry links to allow access for placements and student research.
- Actively seek industry feedback on our courses and initiate an annual supervisors training workshop for industry partners.

Energetic, enthusiastic and capable students are attracted to work and learn with us.

- Ensure that the work of the centre is promoted across multiple platforms.
- Ensure that the work of the centre is promoted across relevant industries.

The CFBS builds expert knowledge amongst professionals working in the field across Australia and internationally.

- Ensure that the CFBS Forensic Behavioural Science units remain contemporary through regular review and updating.
- Improve promotion of the CFBS Forensic Behavioural Science units and courses.
- Continue to grow the Forensic Mental Health Professional Development Program.
- Ensure that translational activities are built into all research project plans.
- Establish a wide dissemination network for translational products.

CONSULTANCY AND EVALUATION

Research conducted by CFBS staff and students is effectively translated into the Centre's consultation and evaluation services.

- Ensure that staff with relevant expertise are involved in projects to the fullest extent possible.

There is industry recognition of the expert knowledge and methodological rigour provided by the CFBS during contract consultancy, evaluation and research projects.

- Project feedback is actively sought to continue to improve our consultation and evaluation work.
- Ensure that plain language writing and visual reporting supports client understanding of methodology, rigour and outcomes.

The CFBS is responsive to the needs of industry and has capacity to provide consultation and evaluation services that assist industry partners with service development and the adoption of novel practices and interventions.

- Consolidate and ensure continuity for the CFBS consultation and evaluation team.
- Support the translation of research and the generation of funds to support research by ensuring that academic staff are actively contributing to consultation and evaluation projects.
- Advocate for university recognition and support of our contract consultancy and evaluation work to ensure sustainability.

ALL DOMAINS

These objectives and strategies apply across all CFBS activities.

The Centre has a friendly, supportive, productive and sustainable working environment that provides staff and students with opportunities to develop, learn and influence.

- Rotate leadership and convenor roles every 3-5 years to support contemporary approaches, to ensure that all staff have opportunities to contribute and gain leadership experience, and to balance staff availability to develop their research.
- Increase the number of regular staff and student social events.

Our work is culturally safe, respectful and encouraging of diversity and inclusion.

- Ensure that individual and group differences, including culture are respected and incorporated into all training modules and educational material.
- Grow collaborations with cultural groups and organisations.
- Recognise key cultural dates/events to ensure an inclusive centre.
- Develop a CFBS statement regarding commitment to cultural safety and diversity for use on the internet and training materials.

We actively collaborate with all people who are involved in forensic mental health and criminal justice services, including those with lived experience as well as those who work within these systems.

- Actively grow collaborations with organisations with lived experience.